

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 33-39 have been added. Accordingly, claims 32-39 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 32 is independent. The Examiner has indicated on the Office Action Summary that claim 33 stands rejected, however, the Detailed Action section correctly identified the rejected claim as claim 32.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above added claims do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,752,938 issued to Flatland, *et al.* ("Flatland"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 32 requires among other things "a cylindrical wall protector extending inwardly into an interior portion of the upper body portion at the throughbore" and that the "the cylindrical wall protector [extend] between the throughbore and the upper seal portion [of the unitary valve seal]." Flatland fails to disclose at least these features. Flatland does not have a cylindrical wall protector that extends inwardly into the interior portion of the upper body portion at the throughbore nor does Flatland have a cylindrical wall protector that extends between the throughbore and the upper seal portion of the valve seal as required by claim 32.

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,603,702 issued to Smith, *et al.* ("Smith"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 32 also requires "an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in the upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of the upper body portion." In contrast, that valve seal disclosed in Smith is not mounted to the upper body portion of the seal assembly but is rather mounted at a bottom portion of the seal assembly. (See Figures 11 and 13 and related discussion in the specification.)

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,603,702 issued to Harber, *et al.* ("Harber"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Similar to Flatland above, Harber does not have a cylindrical wall protector that extends inwardly into an interior portion of the upper seal portion of the valve seal. Harber has a cylindrical boss that covers the mounting portion of the valve seal but does not extend into the upper seal portion of the valve seal.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 32. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 32, and all the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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